

6. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the remote control, upon activation by the user, is adapted to call up a postage submenu relating to postage on a display of the television, the postage submenu adapted to prompt the user to enter identification data associated with the request for postal indicia.

7. (New) The system of claim 6 wherein the identification data includes a destination address and a zip code.

8. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein human readable identifier information related to the mailpiece is printed on the label in addition to the indicia.

9. (New) The system of claim 1 further comprising a weighing scale that is communicatively coupled to the set-top box, the weighing scale being adapted to determine a mass of a mailpiece needing the indicia and communicate the mass information to the host for determining an amount of postage to be included in the indicia.

10. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the postal security devices in the host are shared among the customers.

11. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein an operator of the host maintains a set of accounts with respect to each customer, the accounts including accounting information for each customer.

12. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the set-top box further includes a fingerprint reader adapted to authenticate the user to the host.

13. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the host is communicatively linked to a plurality of delivery service providers, and the host is further adapted to retrieve and transmit price comparison information to the television display related to the request for postal indicia.

14. (New) The system of claim 13 further comprising a postal security device associated with each of the plurality of delivery service providers.

15. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the set-top box further comprises an Internet communication device adapted to transmit and receive information between the customer station and the host over the Internet.

16. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the host further comprises a connection to a plurality of delivery service providers and the host serves as a single point of contact between the customer station and each delivery service provider.

al 17. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the set-top box comprises a web television interface.

18. (New) A method for printing postal indicia at a location remote from a postal security device comprising:

accessing a host data center from a remote location via a communication link, wherein the host data center includes at least one the postal security device adapted to produce cryptographically secure postal indicia, wherein the step of accessing comprises calling up a submenu on a viewing

unit at the remote location and inputting identifier information responsive to queries on the submenu; entering a request for a postal indicia; and

receiving the requested postal indicia from the host data center and printing the indicia on a label via a printer.

19. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein the host data center is communicatively coupled to a plurality of delivery service providers and the step of entering a request further comprises the steps of entering a request for a comparison of delivery rates for an item, wherein the host data center is adapted to solicit quotes from each delivery service provider and provide the quotes to the user.

20. (New) A system for printing cryptographically secure indicia comprising:

a1 a host data center remotely located from at least one customer site, the host data center including at least one postal security device adapted to generate postal indicia and adapted to be shared among customer sites;

a television based communications interface located at the customer site, the communications interface adapted to allow cryptographically secure postal indicia to be received from the host data center at the customer site;

a remote data entry unit at the customer site adapted to allow a user to enter a request for postal indicia into the communications interface by activating a pop-up menu and selecting a function indicated on the menu, the function

including transmitting a user identifier together with a communications interface identifier to the host data center;

a printing device at the customer site adapted to allow the received indicia to be printed; and

an accounting device in the host data center adapted to account for postal indicia sent to each of the customer sites when a single postal security device is shared among a plurality of customer sites.

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REMARKS

1. Claims 1-4 are pending. Claims 5-20 are new.

2. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 are not unpatentable over Moore in view of Gerszberg et al. ("Gerszberg") under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The Applicants respectfully note that Moore and Gerszberg have been combined improperly. References may be combined under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) only if the references are analogous art. In this case Moore and Gerszberg are not analogous art. A reference is analogous art if:

- (1) The reference is in the same field of endeavor as the applicant's, or
- (2) The reference is reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned.